

VICTIMS OF CAPITALISM

Foreword:—The publication of this leaflet is undertaken in the interest of "Truth" and the Working Class. The daily press has undertaken a campaign of lies in order to discredit the Working-class Government of Russia. One of the main charges against them is the deliberate starvation and murder of its political opponents. It is not our purpose to defend the Russian Soviet Government in this leaflet, but rather to place before you some incontrovertible facts with reference to conditions existing in India—a part of the great Empire which purports to stand for "Civilization, Freedom and Democracy."

We quote below the Toronto Mail and Empire, as a summary of the conditions prevalent in India at the present time:

"THE GREATEST TRAGEDY THAT HAS VISITED THE WORLD IN YEARS IS TAKING PLACE TO-DAY—IN INDIA."

India is in the deadly grip of plague and famine. The state to which the population has been reduced is appalling, and prevailing conditions are so terrible that they baffle description.

In the Central and Northern Provinces of India death stalks through the land, taking a toll that makes the Great War's casualty list pale into insignificance.

To date the estimated number of dead from plague and famine in the past year is over 32,000,000. The poor have eaten all their food, and the physical conditions of thousands upon thousands is such that they are too weak even to carry their water jars. Others, driven mad with hunger, are eating roots, seeds, kernels of old nuts, or anything they can pick up. Think of it! 150,000,000 loyal British subjects go hungry, morning, noon and night.

INCONCEIVABLE CONDITIONS PREVAIL

No rain has fallen since last May, and there have been no crops. Wells are drying up. Traffic has practically ceased. Mails are undelivered, and business is at a standstill. Food riots take place daily in the cities.

MILES OF DEAD

Some conception of the awful death toll may be gathered from the following comparison: If coffins for the 32,000,000 British subjects who have died during the last year through plague and famine were placed, head to head, they would reach a distance equal to one and one-third times around the equator.

Words fail to portray the ghastliness of this stupendous tragedy, and photographs taken in different parts of the country depict scenes too gruesome for publication.

In a recent article "The Christian Herald" of New York says: "Letters from India bring news of an appalling famine now prevailing. Food prices have soared to heights unknown for a hundred years. We appeal, in the name of universal pity and human nature, for help."

—Toronto Mail and Empire, April 22, 1919.

The Bishop of Bombay writes the people are dying, and those who are facing death are selling their bullocks for anything they can get.

The "Times" of Ceylon: Of the widespread suffering there is no question. Thousands of families are on the verge of starvation, and need only the slightest push to send them over the precipice.

The "Christian Herald": Females Suffer the Worst. Death by starvation has evidently become a commonplace. Famine is always hardest upon children, women and weak people and these are the first to succumb. The poor people cast away their girls, but for religious reasons hold on to their sons as long as possible, so that it is the females who are suffering the most terribly.

The "Toronto Star," April 14, 1919: A letter from a missionary worker says: "I made a trip through my district and I never say anything like the sights I witnessed in every village. It seemed as though the open space in front of each village was a vast cemetery where one-quarter or even one-third of the population were lying freshly buried. In some places the dead were lying still unburied in their houses, as there was no one left in their immediate neighborhood to bury them." Another writes: "One hundred and fifty millions are hungry. In many places the death rate per week now equals the normal annual death rate."

SERIOUS PROBLEM IN GRAIN SURPLUS

"Montreal Gazette," Feb. 3, 1919: Mr. Mackenzie, a Canadian by birth, but now a resident partner in Chicago of Shearson Hammill & Co., is well known here as an authority on the grain markets. On his visit to Montreal this week he made the following summary of conditions as affecting supply and demand for foodstuffs," which reads in part as follows:

"During the period of war, Argentine, Australia and India were practically closed as shipping points for foreign needs. These three countries represent a very large percentage of the world's surplus in normal times, consequently, during this period they have repeated crops and increased their carry-over."

EXPORTABLE SURPLUS ABOVE HOME REQUIREMENTS

	BUSHELS
United States	250,000,000
Canada	80,000,000
Argentine	150,000,000
Australia	200,000,000
Total for Export	680,000,000

"Figures are not available for India, but they are similarly situated, and may be estimated as having a very substantial amount for sale."

Simla, India, April 15, 1919: "Airplanes were used to-day in coping with the disorders which have broken out in the Punjab. Martial law has been declared in the districts of Lahore and Amritsar."

London, April 17, 1919: "Troops fired upon rioters in Calcutta, killing six and wounding twelve."
—Toronto Star, April 17, 1919.

Afterword:—Wheat for Sale. Millions dead and dying. The heavens raining "Bombs," not "Manna." This, in a British Colony—not Russia. **Under Socialism** this food would be used to feed the starving millions. The Capitalists cannot sell to make a profit, and so—Human Beings must die. What are you going to do about it?

Issued by the Social-Democratic Party of Canada.